

MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the year 1960.



Medical Officer

Dr.. Amelia Evans,
Town Hall,
Newtown.
Telephone Newtown 246.

Public Health Inspector

B. Brooks-Evans,
The Plas,
Machynlleth.
Telephone Machynlleth 2389.



MACHYNILETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| <u>Chairman</u> | Councillor H.E. Barker. |
| <u>Vice Chairman</u> | Councillor I.G. Owen. |
| <u>Members</u> | Councillors Lt. Col. The Hon. R.E.B. Beaumont, T.D., J.P., E.D. Edwards. G.B. Edwards. G.H. Evans. J.E. Humphreys. O.B. James. G. Lloyd Jones. Major R.H. Jones-Evans, M.B.E. J.L. Pugh. I. Rowlands. J.T. Royles. T. Vaughan. W.A. Breese. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <u>Staff</u> | |
| <u>Medical Officer of Health</u> | Amelia Evans, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. |
| <u>Public Health Inspector.</u> | B. Brooks-Evans, M.R.S.H. |
| <u>Clerk of Public Health Inspector</u> | Rosaline Evans. |



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MACHYNLLETH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Gentlemen,

Once again it is my duty to report to you on the health and sanitary conditions in your district for the year 1960.

Staff

There were no staff changes.

Vital Statistics

The birth rate in 1960 was 13.89 per 1,000 population compared with 12.50 in 1959. The rate in the Urban areas of the County was 15.51 and for the whole County it was 15.76 and for England and Wales 17.1.

There was one still birth which gives a rate of 4% of the live births, compared with 2.9% in the Urban districts and 2.6% in the whole County. In 1959 there were no still births in Machynlleth.

There was one illegitimate birth being 3.8% of total births compared with 4.3% in 1959. This rate in the Urban districts was 3.9% and in the whole County 4.4%.

Infant Mortality

There was no deaths of infants under the age of one year - as was the case in 1959.

The rate per 1,000 live births in the Urban areas was 4, and in the whole County 13. This is the lowest figure ever recorded.

Deaths

There were 27 deaths from all causes giving a rate of 15.0 per 1,000 population compared with 15.76 in 1959.

The rate in the Urban areas was 11.04 and in the whole County 11.47.

There was no death from tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47

No action was taken under this Act in 1960.

Housing

No Council houses were built in 1960. Plans were drawn up for the erection of 26 houses and six bungalows for aged persons and by the end of the year this had reached tendering stage. These houses are to be built at the far end of Trefgarth.

Negotiations for acquisition of the site in Graigfach unfortunately fell through owing to the excessive cost.

One slum property was demolished.

The Council own 161 houses.

At the end of the year there were 59 applicants on the waiting list.

During 1960 there were 9 Council houses let to new tenants.

Housing Acts 1949/1959

The Council continues to award 50% of the approved cost as regards to improvement grants. There were 8 such applicants in respect of 10 houses and three were applicants for standard ~~points~~ ^{grants}.

One of these applicants was not proceeded with due to the high cost and in another case the applicant has made no claim for payment.

I would like to point out that the cost of these improvements in this district are very high.

Five of the houses concerned had been condemned and were vacant.

Water supply

The water is filtrated and chloronated and maintained at a high standard of ~~purity~~ ^{purity}.

During 1960 the Urban water mains were extended to Felingerrig, Penegoes and Forge and also supply Llanwrin and Derwenlas.

Water Supply Contd.

A constant supply was maintained throughout the summer to the town and these 5 villages although the use of hose pipes was banned in June.

Considerable attention was again given to the maintenance of a night flow at approximately 1,000 gallons an hour.

There are 611 houses in the Urban area, 44 of these rely on external water stand pipes. The remainder have internal taps.

The rainfall recorded in 1960 was -

| | <u>Inches</u> | | <u>Inches</u> |
|----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| January | 8.41 | July | 3.87 |
| February | 9.22 | August | 9.15 |
| March | 2.79 | September | 8.24 |
| April | 4.56 | October | 3.04 |
| May | .64 | November | 13.24 |
| June | 3.04 | December | 10.46 |

Total - 76.66".

Total in 1959 was 62".

Sanitation

The sewage disposal works was maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Public Conveniencies

Tenders were received in August 1960 for erection of Public Conveniencies at the Plas Pleasure Ground. At the end of the year no work had actually commenced.

Slaughterhouse

The public health inspector visits the one privately owned slaughterhouse every day and all the meat is regularly inspected.

I would like to express my gratitude for the help and co-operation received from my colleagues in the health department and also in the Clerk's department and to the members of the Council who sincerely endeavour to bring health and happiness to the citizens of the town.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

AMELIA EVANS.

April 1961.

Statistical Survey

| | 1960 | 1959 |
|---|----------|---------|
| Area in Acres | 1,183 | 1,183 |
| Population (Based on Registrar General's mid-year estimate) | 1,800 | 1,840 |
| Rateable Value | £22,830 | £22,471 |
| Penny product | £90:10:8 | £82 |

LIVE BIRTHS

| | 1960 | | | 1959 | | |
|-------------------|------|--------|-------|------|--------|-------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| Legitimate | 14 | 10 | 24 | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Home Confinements | | None | | | 1 | |

Birth rate per 1,000 population

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| For Machynlleth | 13.89 | 12.50 |
| For Urban areas in County | 15.51 | 15.21 |
| For Rural areas in County | 15.93 | 15.86 |
| For Montgomeryshire | 15.76 | 15.60 |
| For England & Wales | 17.1 | 16.50 |
| Per-cent of Illegitimate live births of total live births | 3.8% | 4% |

STILL BIRTHS

Rate - per 1,000 live births & still births

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|------|
| For Machynlleth | 38.3 | 0 |
| For Urban areas of County | 28.16 | 25.2 |
| For Rural areas of County | 22.77 | 29.4 |
| For Montgomeryshire | 24.89 | 27.8 |
| For England & Wales | 19.8 | 20.7 |

INFANT MORTALITY

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Deaths of infants under one year | 0 | 0 |
|----------------------------------|---|---|

Rate per 1,000 live births

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|----|
| For Machynlleth | 0 | 0 |
| For Urban areas of County | 4 | 11 |
| For Rural areas of County | 19 | 21 |
| For Montgomeryshire | 13 | 17 |
| For England & Wales | 21.9 | 22 |

DEATHS

| | <u>1960</u> | | | <u>1959</u> | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| All causes - | 12 | 17 | 29 | 12 | 17 | 29 |

Rate per 1,000 population

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| For Machynlleth | 15.0 | 15.76 |
| For Urban areas of County | 11.04 | 14.31 |
| For Rural areas of County | 11.73 | 12.19 |
| For Montgomeryshire | 11.47 | 13.04 |
| For England & Wales | 11.5 | 11.6 |

AGE AT DEATH

| | <u>1960</u> | | | <u>1959</u> | | |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| Under 1. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 -- 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 -- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 -- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 25-- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 35-- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 45-- | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 55-- | 3 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 65-- | 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| 75-- | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 85 & over | 3 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| | 12 | 15 | 27 | 12 | 17 | 29 |

CAUSES OF DEATH

| | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Respiratory Tuberculosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Syphilitic disease | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Whooping Cough | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Meningococcal infections | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute poliomyelitis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other infective & parasitic diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| <u>CAUSES OF DEATH CONT'D</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|--|-------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Malignant neoplasm - | | | | | | |
| stomach | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| lung, bronchus | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| breast | - | 0 | 0 | - | 1 | 1 |
| uterus | - | 2 | 2 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Leukaemia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Diabetes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Vascular lesions of the nervous system | 3 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Coronary diseases (angina) | 2 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Hypertension with heart disease | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Other heart diseases | 3 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Influenza | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other diseases of the respiratory system | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nephritis, nephrosis | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hyperplasia of prostate | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | - | 0 | 0 | - | 0 | 0 |
| Congenital malformation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other defined and ill defined diseases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Motor Vehicle accidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| All other accidents | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 12 | 15 | 27 | 12 | 17 | 29 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

No infectious diseases were notified during 1960

TUBERCULOSIS

No new case of tuberculosis was notified in 1960. Four names were put on the register being people who have moved into the Urban district but were previously notified elsewhere:-

- (1) Female age 30 - pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (2) Female age 28 - pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (3) Female age 22 - genito urinary system infected.
- (4) Male age 23 - tubercular pleural effusion.

Six names were removed from the register - all due to recovery:-

- (1) Female age 30 with pulmonary tuberculosis
- (2) Male age 11 in 1954 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (3) Female age 24 in 1949 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (4) Male age 13 in 1945 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (5) Female age 19 in 1946 when notified with pulmonary tuberculosis.
- (6) Female age 8 in 1950 when notified with tubercular shoulder.

At the end of the year there were 24 names on the register.

Vaccination against tuberculosis is offered to all School-children in the County from the age of 13 years upwards.

| | Brynlllywarch Boys School | Machynlleth High School | Llanidloes High School | Newtown Girls School |
|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mantoux Tested. | 9 | 63 | 61 | 28 |
| " positive | 1 | 9(4 B.C.G. before) | 3(2 B.C.G. before). | 20(4 B.C.G. before). |
| " negative. | 8 | 51(3 abs.) | 55(3 abs.) | 77(1 abs.) |
| Vaccinated | 8 | 51 | 55 | 77 |
| Post B.C.G.tested | 8 | 48(3 abs.) | 52(3 abs.) | 60(17 abs.) |
| " " positive. | 8 | 43(2 abs.) | 37(2 abs.) | 48(6 abs.) |
| " " negative. | 0 | 3 | 13 | 6 |

TUBERCULOSIS (cont'd)

| | <u>Newtown Boys High School.</u> | <u>Commercial Center</u> | <u>Technical School.</u> |
|-------------------|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mantoux tested | 71 | 27 | 31 |
| " positive | 11(3 B.C.G. before) | 8(1 B.C.G before | 7(2 B.C.G. before. |
| " Negative | 58(2 absent) | 18(1 absent) | 23(1 absent) |
| Vaccinated | 58 | 17(1 ") | 22(1 ") |
| Post B.C.G.tested | 53(5 absent) | 13(4 ") | 19(3 ") |
| " " positive | 40(10 ") | 12 | 15(2 ") |
| " " negative | 3 | 1 | 2 |

THE GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

AMBULANCE

The local service consists of the St. John Ambulance and is responsible to the Ambulance Committee of the County Council Health Committee. Telephone - Machynlleth 2179.

SITTING CAR SERVICE

All enquiries to the County Health Offices, Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 205.

CHILDREN'S OFFICER

This office is established by the County Council under the terms of the Children's Act 1948. The Childrens Officer is -

Mr W.E. Jones,
County Offices,
Welshpool. Telephone - Welshpool 3311.

The Children's reception home is at -

12, Bronwylfa,
Welshpool. Telephone - Welshpool 3109.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

The district is served by -

Nurse M. Jones,
2 Maglona Villas,
Machynlleth. Telephone - Machynlleth 2129

HEALTH VISITING

Mrs Robinson was appointed as new health visitor to succeed Miss Eunice Jones and she commenced duties March 1st, 1960

HOME HELP SERVICE

In such cases as elderly people living in their own homes, home confinements and a number of other types of cases, home help is often available and payment depends on the income to the person concerned

HOME HELP SERVICE(cont'd)

For further information advice can be sought from the home help supervisor, who is most sympathetic and understanding and who works very hard, especially for the older members of the community. To herd elderly people together in a large house, however well run and however sympathetic the matrons may be, is not always the answer for some old folk. So many want to stay in their own homes with their own furniture around them. But many have gone past being able to care for themselves and it is in this connection that the home help service is, to my mind, most invaluable. A home help need go in for a few hours daily, to clean up, light a fire and prepare meal. The home help supervisor can be contacted at the County Health Offices, Newtown. Telephone - Newtown 205.

CARE OF THE AGED

This service is provided by the Welfare Department of the County Council and the local home established for the care of the aged is at Newlands, Machynlleth.

HOSPITALS

The Machynlleth, Corris and District Hospital is controlled by the Mid-Wales Hospital Board based at Aberystwyth. It has medical, surgical and midwifery beds.

LABORATORY SERVICE

A branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service is at the Cardiganshire General Hospital, Aberystwyth, under the direction of Dr. M.N.V. Sudds. Telephone - Aberystwyth 216.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The County Council is responsible for this service and an infant welfare clinic is held on the second and fourth Tuesdays every month in the afternoon at Doll Street.

TUBERCULOSIS

This service is controlled by the Regional Hospital Board. Dr. G.O. Thomas, the Chest Physician, holds a clinic every Wednesday at 11.00 a.m. at the Chest Hospital.

VACCINATION

Vaccination against smallpox is carried out by the local general practitioners and at the infant welfare centre.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

Protection against whooping cough is commenced at two or three months and consists of three injections at monthly intervals. This is followed by two injections for diphtheria at monthly intervals.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

This was extended to include people up to the age of 40 and clinics are held at regular intervals for this purpose.

GENERALLY

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Daily meat inspection duties were carried out at the Machynlleth Slaughterhouse throughout the year. The bulk of the meat inspected is sent outside the Urban area. Meat is also brought into the Machynlleth Urban area from outside sources.

The Mutual aid agreement between this Council and the Towyn Urban District Council is still in operation and is proving beneficial.

The quality of the meat was generally satisfactory and the condemnations were minor in character and apart from two instances do not warrant special mention.

During the year there were two cases of "C. Bovis" found in bovine carcasses. On the 23.7.60 a local infection was found upon incision of a heart wall, and on the 31.12.60 a local infection was found in the masticatory muscles of a head. Appropriate action was taken. These cases are a rare occurrence, but as the disease is transmissible to man a routine specific check is made of each bovine carcass, for the detection of this disease.

About 75 tins and packages of various foodstuffs in shops were surrendered during the year, being unwholesome and unfit for the food of man.

HOUSING GRANTS

This subject has been referred to by the Medical Officer. The Council is not bound to give discretionary grants but the policy of awarding this form of grant-aid in all suitable cases continues. This is a distinct help to people, particularly as the cost of building work in the town is high. This policy also ensures that some of the unfit houses are made fit for habitation.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

Number issuedNIL

INFORMAL NOTICES

Number issued 39

Analyses:-

Housing Defects 11

Drainage Defects 10

Factories and Workshops 1

Nuisances 17

Number complied with 34

Number outstanding at end of the year 5

STATUTORY NOTICES

Number servedNIL

